



DEPARTMENT OF AGRUCULTURE

Rural Housing Service

[Docket No. **RHS-22-CF-0010**]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Debt Settlement, Community and Business Programs; OMB Control No.: 0575-0124

AGENCY: Rural Housing Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Rural Housing Service (RHS) announces its' intention to request an extension of a currently approved information collection and invites comments on this information collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by **[INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER]** to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and, in the “Search Field” box, labeled “Search for Rules, Proposed Rules, Notices or Supporting Documents,” enter the following docket number: (**RHS-22-CF-0010**). To submit or view public comments, click the “Search” button, select the “Documents” tab, then select the following document title (**Debt Settlement, Community and Business Programs**) from the “Search Results,” and select the “Comment” button. Before inputting your comments, you may also review the “Commenter’s Checklist” (optional). Insert your comments under the “Comment” title, click “Browse” to attach files (if available). Input your email address and select “Submit Comment.” Information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site’s “FAQ” link.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: MaryPat Daskal, Chief, Branch 1, Rural Development Innovation Center – Regulations Management Division, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522. Telephone: (202) 720-7853. Email MaryPat.Daskla@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104–13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies the following information collection that RHS is submitting to OMB as extension to an existing collection with Agency adjustment.

Title: 7 CFR Part 1956-C, Debt Settlement – Community and Business Programs.

OMB Control Number: 0575-0124.

Expiration Date of Approval: December 31, 2022.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved information collection.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 6.2 hours per response.

Respondents: Not-for-profit institutions and other businesses.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 97

Estimated Number of Responses: 205

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 7.5

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,265

Abstract: Rural Development (including the Rural Housing Service (RHS), the Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBS), and the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), hereinafter referred to as Agency, are the credit agencies for agricultural and rural development for the United States Department of Agriculture. The Agency offers supervised credit to develop, improve, and

operate family farms, modest housing, essential community facilities, and business and industry across rural communities. Rural Development offers loans, grants, and loan guarantees to help create jobs and support economic development and essential services such as housing; health care; first responder services and equipment; and water, electric and communications infrastructure.

The Community Facilities loan program of RHS is authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926). The purpose of the Community Facilities loan program is to make loans to public entities, nonprofit corporations, and Indian tribes for the development of essential community facilities for public use in rural areas.

The Business and Industry program is authorized by Section 310 B 7 (U.S.C. 1932) (Pub. L. 92-419, August 30, 1972) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to improve, develop, or finance business, industry, and employment and improve the economic and environmental climate in rural communities. The Business and Industry programs eligible for debt settlement under this provision are limited to Business and Industry direct loans. Debt Settlement of Economic Opportunity Cooperative Loans, Claims Against Third Party Converters, Non-program loans, Rural Business Enterprise/Television Demonstration grants, Rural Development Loan Fund loans, Intermediary Relending Program loans, and Nonprofit National Corporation loans and grants, are not authorized. Under independent statutory authority, settlement under these programs is handled pursuant to the Federal Claims Collection Joint Standards, 4 CFR parts 101 through 105.

The debt settlement program provides the delinquent client with an equitable tool for the compromise, adjustment, cancellation, or charge-off of a debt owed to the Agency. The term settlement is used for convenience in referring to compromise, adjustment, cancellation, or charge off actions individually or collectively. If a debt is eligible for settlement, the debt settlement authorities are extended to the debtor. All debtors are entitled to impartial treatment

and uniform consideration under this subpart. The information collected is similar to that required by a commercial lender in similar circumstances.

The information collected is similar to that required by a commercial lender in similar circumstances. Information will be collected by the field offices from borrowers, consultants, lenders, and attorneys. Failure to collect information could result in improper servicing of these loans.

Comments are invited on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.

(b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

(c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Arlette Mussington, Rural Development Innovation Center – Regulations Management Division, at (202) 720-7853. Email: arlette.mussington@usda.gov.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Joaquin Altoro,

Administrator,

Rural Housing Service.

